INSIST ON
Bartlett-Bacon bills being passed. Insist on knowing where your Representatives in Congress stand. You have a right to know.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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VOL. 3. NO. 42 WASHINGTON. D. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 1914. WHOLE NO. 146

HELP THE MINERS.
Local unions are urged to give prompt financial aid to the striking copper miners of Calumet.

OWNERS REJECT OVERTURES

Indicate No Desire to Honorably Adjust Copper Strike.

ARBITRATION NOT ACCEPTED

Gov. Ferris Likewise Fails—Question Is Now Before Both Branches of Congress.

Washington, Jan. 17.—In a report to Secretary of Labor Wilson on their efforts to settle the Michigan copper strike, three representatives of the federal government affirm that the employers refused to consider every plan that had for its purpose an honorable adjustment of the difficulty. The proposals included the following: That the whole question be submitted to arbitration, with no member of the Miners' union on the Board; that the companies agree not to discriminate; that the companies post notices that they will employ all strikers without discrimination, and that the managers or representatives of the miners in an effort to settle the question. All these were rejected by the three commissioners. The investigators' report includes other phases of the strike situation, and deals with the strike causes, wages, hours of labor, children, militia, armed guards, injunctions, and earnings of the companies. No report is made on the Calumet tragedy, or the deportation of President Moyer, as the investigators show that these data was compiled prior to their appointment. It is stated that strike-breakers were imported into the copper region without representation, that they were taken to the mines at the point of pistols and that the strikers were killed by pistols in the hands of armed guards.

In dealing with the profits of the companies, the government officials say that while some of the smaller concerns were operating at a loss, the Calumet-Hecla company, which controls more than 50 per cent of the miners in that region, has paid $175,000,000 in dividends, and reinvested $75,000,000 in its property since 1871 on an authorized capital of $1,000,000, of which $1,000,000 is issued. Because of the number of men involved and "the bitterness caused by bringing soldiers and 'deputy sheriffs into the district," mention is made of the absence of violence. The report declares that "the only persons killed were two of the strikers who were wantonly shot down by a deputy sheriff and deputies at Painsdale, and a deputy and striker who killed each other near Hedgendorf." The investigators further say: "One of the most remarkable features of the strike was that in spite of the excitement and passion, the only property of the mining companies was injured by strikers, and no fact was shown of any disposition to injure property." One of the side lights of the report is the manner in which strike-breaking agencies secured men. Many of the recruits were written in Germany, with the exception that the word "strike," which was written in English, "probably to comply with the laws of New York felt evidently constrained to advise the men who cannot read English," says the report.

Secretary of Labor Wilson has declined to comment on the report, but it is believed that the findings of the investigators will be the groundwork of a congressional investigation that is now being strongly urged by trade unionists and their sympathizers throughout the country. Senator Ashurst has introduced a resolution to that effect in the Senate and similar resolutions are in possession of the House. The Australian trade ambassador has given orders to the St. Paul view council to proceed to the copper region and investigate the charge that poonage is practiced on the citizens of his country.

Houghton, Mich., Jan. 17.—Governor Ferris has failed in his attempt to mediate the copper strike, after holding public hearings at which both sides presented their views. The state executive took occasion to "emphatically declare" in favor of the organization of labor. He further said: "Labor is entitled to and organized for an advantage, and labor should share similar benefits." At this hearing Frederick Bullman the Secretary Hietala, of the Hancock Copper Miners' Union, together with President Rickard and the attorney for the Calumet local, stated that they were opposed to the calling of a strike, which was already urged by the membership at large. Secretary Hietala showed the governor that the membership vote on the strike question was 7,684 for and 125 against.

NEWS FROM BOSTON.

Boston, Jan. 17.—The Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers' union is conferring with employers on a new wage scale. Both sides are hoping for a satisfactory adjustment. Some of the largest sailmaking firms in Boston have agreed to the eight-hour demands of the Sailmakers' union. A strike has been on since the first of the year, and the workers have gained a shorter working week, with hours pay. Because of a refusal of three large co erns to accept the new wage scale, which calls for hour reductions and wage increases, these concerns are now minus the employ of 30 members of Electrical S' ers's union No. 711. Other firms have agreed to the new scale, and committees have all but settled the matter of the present difficulty. The Boston Council of Longshoremen are preparing to submit a new schedule of rates which call for 2 cents an hour increase. At a large meeting in Faneuil hall the Garment Workers of this city have declared in favor of the week work pla instead of again reverting to the old piece work system, which last year's strike did away with, and which some contractors would like to again re-establish.

PROGRESS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Columbia, N. C., Jan. 17.—The new child labor law has been in force since the first of this year, and while it includes several exemptions, the general age limit is already under way. The new law makes county school superintendents the factory inspectors, and provides that children under 12 are prohibited from working in factories or manufacturing establishments, and no children under 14 permitted to work in these places between 9 p. m. and 6 a. m. No child under 16 is permitted to work more than nine hours in 12 and 13 is allowed to work in a factory except as an apprentice and only after having attended school four months in the preceding twelve months.

FEAR FIREMEN'S STRIKE TALK.

London, Jan. 12.—A notice has been posted in the various fire stations of London, signed by the chief officer, in which they firemen are notified that the fire brigade committee has arranged that the firemen should appoint a standing committee of their own number to consider matters of interest to the men and the service, and present their decisions to their superiors. It is hinted that the force behind this announcement was the growing determination of London firemen to resort to drastic measures if they were not allowed to submit their grievances to the proper authorities.

TENNESSEE WORKERS ALERT.

Knoxville, Jan. 17.—The seventeenth convention of the Tennessee Federation of Labor recorded marked advances by organized labor in this state. The last regular session of the state legislature passed seven enactments for social betterment, the two most important being compulsory education and the creation of a workshop and factory inspection department. At the recent special session of the legislature trade unionists urged the adoption of electric accessories. They failed, but successful in seven cases. These provided for a regulation of the hours of labor for women and children, more effective escapes on buildings, first aid supplies to be kept at mines, prohibiting night work for children, reporting of accidents, a semi-monthly pay day and making the maintenance of rescue crews at mine-s mandatory. Encouraged by their progress the State Federation will now bend its energies toward abolishing the poll tax as a prerequisite to voting, the adoption of free text books throughout the state, a comprehensive and effective workmen's compensation act, and laws providing for the working of convicts on public roads and the manufacture of goods for state use, thereby supplanting the present contract convict labor system.

ATTEMPT TO DESTROY UNION.

Chicago, Jan. 17.—Members of the Laundry Drivers union have secured possession of a "confidential" letter sent out by the Laundrymen's association in an effort to break their workers' labor organization. In the letter the circular urges laundrymen to demand that their drivers sign contracts binding them not to work in the same business for which they have been discharged or voluntarily left employment for a period of eight months. It is stated that the circular suggests the following method of forcing the signing of the contract: "If any are disposed to sign contracts with you it is in itself an indication that they are dissatisfied and cannot be relied upon." Other features of this new contract would indicate that the laundrymen in the association have determined to resort to a document that would mark the beginning of the end so far as the union drivers were concerned. So far, the employers' efforts to interest their workers have not met with success. Instead, the union's continued growth has dampened the laundrymen's enthusiasm.

KEYSTONE STATE IS LOW.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Jan. 17.—Reports just made by the Russell Sage Foundation show that this state's rank among other states in the matter of public schools is twenty-third among the forty-eight. In expenditure per child Pennsylvania ranks twenty-sixth, and in value per each child of school age per annum, Washington, the highest, spends $37 while South Carolina, the lowest, spends $3 per child. What each state is doing for the future generation is shown by the following: In Pennsylvania there are 58 pupils in high school and 19 in college for each 1,000 in elementary schools. Virginia has only 22 in high school and 16 in college, in the average annual salaries paid teachers reaches, Pennsylvania ranks thirteenth, paying an average of $564 per annum, while Virginia has the highest average of $703, while North Carolina is lowest, paying only an average of $390.

COMMISSION RULE SUPERIOR.

Atlantic City, N. J., Jan. 17.—In answer to queries made by the city of Trenton, writes, in part, as follows: "Commission form of government, in my opinion, can become more dangerous than the old form if the proper men are not elected, as they would build up a machine which would be most difficult to defeat, but by electing the proper men, which should not be difficult, considering the present state of the public mind, I believe that commission form of government, under which the people have secured a more efficient and business-like administration, and that the people will receive more for their money than ever before."

BREAKS CONTRACT.

Springfield, Ill., Jan. 17.—In what is claimed to be an effort to assist contractors in breaking the union, the Carpenters who are now resisting the establishment of nonunion conditions in this city, the Typographical union has repudiated its contract with the Carpenters' council, which has been in force that hereafter the plant will be run on what the management is pleased to term "the open shop" basis. Advertisements are being placed in various papers by the company, which has secured a partial force of nonunion men.

PRESENTS CAR MEN'S SIDE.

Indianapolis, Jan. 17.—"These employes whom the traction company says are loyal, noble men, asked for bread and the company gave them pistol shots. They asked for better working conditions and they were given clubs. They asked for hours, admittedly employed by the company to assault and beat them down," declared Assistant Attorney Clarkson, on behalf of the Street Car Men's union before the State Public Service Commission this morning in favor of a board of arbitration on questions that caused the recent strike.

ORGANIZING DAY IN GEORGIA.

Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 17.—Reports indicate that Organizing Day throughout Georgia will be more successful this year because of the better conditions that now prevail and the proven value of last year's efforts. The date is February 9, and every local in the State is urged to observe the day with some gathering that is best suited to advance the trade union cause in the various localities.

PUBLIC STREETS FOR DANCES.

San Francisco, Jan. 12.—As a substitute for public dance halls, which have been closed by the police of this city, municipal authorities have inaugurated public street dances in outlying residence districts. The first was attended by 4,000 and police, the latter being instructed to maintain decorum.

MILLS RESUME FULL TIME.

Pittsburg, Jan. 12.—Several independent mills have posted orders for a resumption of full time because of orders calling for 100,000 tons of finished steel for immediate delivery. The orders affect 7,000 men, who have been working on short time.

NEW ENGINEERS' LOCAL.

Vancouver, Jan. 17.—Engineers in the Powell River paper mills have been organized into a branch of the Pulp and Paper International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers.

IMMIGRATION FIGURES.

Washington, Jan. 17.—The Department of Labor reports that 304,671 immigrants were admitted to this country during the number of last year, Southern Italy, with 18,347, contributed the largest number. Only 14,253 were classed as skilled workmen or workwoinen, the tailors' trade heading the list with 2,122, followed by clerks and accountants (1,627), the printers and pressers (1,227), seamstresses (945), and shoemakers (892). The unskilled callings included 20,959 farm laborers, 20,152 laborers, and 13,996 servants. The industrial states received practically all of this vast army. One-quarter, or 27,762, remained in New York, while 16,552 were ticketed for Pennsylvania. Illinois will be the home of 8,538, 8,129 going to Massachusetts, 6,156 to Ohio, and 5,949 to New Jersey. During November the government refused admittance to 2,221.

UPHOLDS ACCIDENT BOARD.

Lansing, Mich., Jan. 17.—Michigan's Industrial Accident Board has won its first test case in the courts. Circuit Judge Charles Jendrus was injured in the plant of the Detroit Steel Products company and died without making claim for compensation. Doctors suggested an operation, but he shook his head. The industrial board awarded the widow $6,720, paying three hundred weeks. The steel company and the Workmen's Compensation Insurance company sought to have the court rule that the proximate cause of death was the refusal of Jendrus to permit an operation, which the industrial board, setting a long list of English decisions. The question of the constitutionality of the act creating the board was not at issue and was not referred to by the court.

LABOR CAMPS ARE A MENACE.

Madison, Wis., Jan. 17.—In what is claimed to be the first report of its kind in the country, W. J. Leiserman, connected with the state board of health, declares that labor camps are a menace not only to the immediate localities in which they are situated, but to the entire commonwealth. He says that the men housed in these camps, which congregate from these camps, hospital reports showed the following cases that had been reported to the labor camps: 152 case. of typhoid, twelve of smallpox, six of diphtheria and 28 other communicable diseases. Mr. Leiserman urges strict supervision of the labor camps.

URGES TIMBER CONSERVATION.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 17.—Prof. C. H. Forsaith, of Ohio State university, is out with a strong plea for this state to pass laws protecting timber lands. He says: "Under the present system of forestry reservations, and timber lands, now held by private ownership, should be free from taxation in order to encourage conservation. He also urges the state to immediately start its work of reforestation on the denuded areas, and prevent further devastation of those timber lands which are within control of the government.

INCREASE FOR IRON WORKERS.

Indianapolis, Jan. 17.—After a short strike for higher wages, the Structural Iron Workers of this city and the General Contractors' association have signed an agreement carrying wage increases of 2 cents an hour for the year 1914, and 70 cents an hour from January 1, 1915, until April 1, 1916. The former rate was 65 cents.

The men struck for a 5-cent increase. The agreement contains several clauses governing working conditions that are in the nature of betterments.

ASKS UNIONS TO HELP.

Butte, Mont., Jan. 17.—W. J. McConnell, Democratic governor of Idaho, and present immigration inspector for the states of Montana, Idaho, and Washington, asks the co-operation of trade unionists in this section in his opposition to the importation of Japanese laborers into the United States under false promises. The inspector says the contract labor law is being evaded at this time by employment agencies. Unions are requested to report to the immigration officer all violations of this law.

METAL POLISHERS STRIKE.

Springfield, Mass., Jan. 17.—Metal Polishers employed at the Indian motorcycle plant went on strike because of conditions which the strikers insist have finally become unbearable. In a public statement they declare that their wages are lower than in other factories in the same industry, and that the absence of showers makes the handling of hired alkali a menace to health. The men announce a willingness to arbitrate the difficulty. The company declines to discuss the matter.

WILL REPORT ACCIDENTS.

Philadelphia, Jan. 17.—The state commissioner of labor and industry has prepared blanks for the use in accordance with a law which provides that every employer engaged in working two days or more. It is intended to tabulate and divide up these reports for future use, so carefully studied, and where dangerous conditions are shown to exist measures will be taken at once to rectify the trouble.

NO SCARCITY OF WORKERS.

San Diego, Cal., Jan. 17.—Local trade unionists claim certain influences in this city are creating the impression throughout the country that there is a scarcity in San Diego, at fabulous rates. Against this the unionists have declared that a publicity device for flooding a certain section with workers for the sole purpose of reducing wages.

"LIVE STOCK" IS BARRED.

Lodi, Cal., Jan. 17.—While Uncle Sam is generous in the use of his parcel post, babies are barred. If the ruling of Lodi's postmaster is sustained, the transportation of an infant—who happened to have its data daughter—was denied because it was placed in the five stock and perishable property list.

WANT BOOKS INSPECTED.

Northumberland, England, Jan. 12.—Miners in this section are to vote on a proposal to inaugurate legislation which would prevent the Board of Trade from, as at present, allowing disputed wages involve wages, unless the board has the books inspected by a competent person.

FROWNS ON PIECE WORK

Federal Court Says Day Work Is More Desirable.

SHOP FEDERATION RECOGNIZED

Unusual Instructions Given to Railroad Receivers by a United States Court.

Little Rock, Ark., Jan. 12.—Judge Jacob Trieber, of the United States District Court, has ruled that the payment of wages on the day labor plan is more desirable, and has also decided that it is proper for the receivers of the Missouri & North Arkansas railroad to deal with the men as a shop federation. These views were expressed as a result of a hearing before him in which the receivers favored the establishment of piece work, which was protested by the workers. The receivers submitted a willingness to meet with the various craft organizations, but were unwilling to recognize the shop federation. In both instances the men were upheld by the court. The request of the men for wage increases that would bring them to the level of other railroads was denied by the court, although he granted a hearing on the request and promised them he would order further increases that would bring the road to the prevailing standard just as soon as the finances permitted such action. The employes are jubilant over the outcome, and will be willing to give the road's financial difficulties they express confidence in Judge Trieber's promise.

STANDS ON HER RIGHTS.

Denver, Jan. 17.—In an attempt to reprimand Mrs. Katherine Williamson, former State superintendent of schools, for introducing a resolution at a meeting of the Equal Suffrage Association meeting against conditions in the Southern Colorado coal fields, Governor Shafroth was met by lady that she had been a member of the Typographical Union for thirty years, and will always protect the right of labor to organize for collective bargaining. The strike has created intense bitterness among unionists, who are protesting against the military and its denial of constitutional guarantees, which, in some cases, has gone so far as to deport strikers and sympathizers from the state. At the recent convention of the State Federation of Labor, called to consider the strike, was addressed by Gov. Shafroth, who stated at that time he would investigate cases reported to him by responsible witnesses. A committee of unionists appointed to investigate charges of outrages committed by the militia met with failure, and the governor with insincerity when he made that promise. Representative Keating is urging a Congressional investigation.

COAL AND THE BIG CANAL.

London, Jan. 17.—British coal interests are beginning to question what effect the Panama canal will have upon the industry, because of the restriction of the further statement, accredited to the United States government, that it will supply but 10 per cent of the coal at first to be used at either end of the canal, which is about 42.40 less than the c o. b. price of Welsh steam-coal bunkers at Port Said. While this statement is not official, it is creating considerable alarm. It is asserted that the new canal, read before the British Association recently, Professor Kirkaldy seemed inclined to think that the Panama canal route would enable the United States to displace British coal from the world's markets.

WIRE MEN WERE ACTIVE.

St. Louis, Jan. 17.—Officers of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers announce that they have received 62 new agreements and because of the sturdy qualities of the membership and the exercise of good judgment "62 new and revised agreements were reached during the twelve-month period, and, lookily, there were no strikes." It is known that each of these new schedules brought increased wages and better conditions to the membership. A call is made on the membership to "keep up the daily grind of organizing men and women."

GIRLS RESIST WAGE CUT.

Philadelphia, Jan. 17.—An attempt to reduce wages in the hosiery mills of William F. Taubel, at Conshohocken, Pa., is a vigorous manner by 1,000 girls, who are now on strike, and who are holding their places in the picket line with interest in their cause. The original number of strikers has since been trebled, and it is reported that the end of the strike is close down. Officers of the United Textile Workers, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, together with local unionists, are assisting the girls.

CARPENTERS ON STRIKE.

Manchester, N. H., Jan. 17.—Several building contractors in this city, by the Master Builders' association, have declared for the nonunion shop. Members of the local Carpenters' union have declined to work under these conditions, which the employers attempt to augur cost by the term "open shop."

FIGHTING WHITE PLAGUE.

Joplin, Mo., Jan. 17.—Trade unionists in this locality have joined hands with various anti-consumption societies in an effort to combat the white plague. At a recent convention of unions in this section it was decided to ask the county authorities to provide quarters in the proposed hospital for tuberculosis cases in their first stages.

SHORTER HOURS FOR GIRLS.

Trenton, Jan. 17.—Organized labor has started a crusade against the long hour system under which women in this city are forced to labor. It is shown that the girls are worked fifteen hours a day in many cases.

MEAT FAMINE POSSIBLE.

Paris, Jan. 17.—The Slaughterers' Union has decided upon an immediate strike unless their employers have by Monday consider a reduction of hours from fourteen to ten.

RECOGNIZE UNIONS.

London, Jan. 17.—According to the Conservative Chin's Gazette, the British admiralty has ordered that all warships must be constructed of British materials, and these must be purchased from firms paying the trade union rates of wages.

DOES UNIONISM PAY!

Waterloo, Iowa, Jan. 17.—The local Typographical Union has just signed a new contract with employers, which increases the pay of each night scale of $18 and $21 to $19 and $22 for job, ad, and floor men for one year, starting January 1, 1914. During the next two years a $1 increase will be granted, and from 1917 to 1919 the rate will be $21 and $23. Machine operators' wages will range from $22 and $25 the first of the year to $24 and $27 during the years of 1917-1919. This five-year contract will result in the following aggregate increases: First year, $2,860; second year, $5,720; third year, $5,720; fourth year, $8,580; fifth year, $8,850. Waterloo printers point to these figures as a result of trade unionism, and compare them with the weekly wage of $12 a week, which prevailed here a few years ago under nonunion conditions.

CONVICT LABOR UNPOPULAR.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 17.—At a meeting of state officials in this city it was developed that strong opposition exists throughout the state against the law which requires county children's home to purchase their supplies from the Mansfield Reformatory. Superintendent Brown, of the Children's Home, is reported as saying that the shoes made by the reformatory are inferior. Records were made of the shoes case superintendents were ordered by their county trustees not to buy the convict made goods. During the conference J. P. Shaffer, a member of the board of administration, expressed the opinion that a majority of the men present at the meeting were wearing prison-made garments and shoes. Shaffer was referred to the large amount of custom-made goods yet produced in penitentiaries which have the contract system.

CLERKS WIN LONG STRIKE.

Lafayette, Ind., Jan. 17.—After a strike of over a year and a half against the nonrecognition of Local 464, peace is again restored with the signing of an agreement between the Retail Merchants' association and the Retail Clerks' union. A minimum wage, increasing with the length of service, is provided for the women clerks. Hours of labor are fixed, the merchants agree not to discriminate, and the Retail Clerks' union and the correspondents of the Social Service Commission of various churches to Child Labor Day, a paper on the observance of which day, January 25, it is suggested that the school authorities call the attention of children to this work on the following Monday.

WAGE LAW IS UPHELD.

West Union, Iowa, Jan. 17.—Judge Hobson, of the District Court, has upheld the constitutionality of the teachers' minimum wage law, and it is believed that prosecution can be started for its enforcement. The case started because of the refusal of the board of a township school board to pay a school teacher the rate her certificate, under the law, entitled her to.

UMBRELLA WORKERS SCORE.

New York, Jan. 17.—The sixteen-weeks' strike of the Umbrella Handle and Stick Makers has been settled, with substantial gains in favor of the 1,000 workers involved. A fifty-one-hour week has been secured, recognition of the union and shop delegates conceded and a promise not to discriminate are the main features of an agreement reached by the employers' association and the workers.

TO EXCLUDE CHEAP LABOR.

Washington, Jan. 17.—Having for his purpose the exclusion of cheap foreign labor, Representative Gillette, of Massachusetts, has introduced a bill to exclude from the United States all aliens laborer who within one year previous to his admission to the United States came to this country for the same work.

SATURDAY HALF-HOLIDAY.

Everett, Wash., Jan. 17.—By a referendum vote the members of the building trades in this city have decided to hereafter enjoy a Saturday half-holiday. Only in extreme emergencies will a response be made to a call of the employer to labor the last half-day of the week.

CAN NOW STAND ALONE.

San Jose, Cal., Jan. 17.—The stereotypers' union of this city declined to affiliate their international union for a charter as a local union. Heretofore they have been members of a branch of the San Francisco local.

UNIONS ARE MERGED.

Louisville, Jan. 17.—The Paperhangers' Union and the Painters' Union, Local No. 188, have been merged into one organization, with a membership of 500. It will be known as the Painters' and Decorators' Union.

FIRE LOSSES DECREASE.

New York, Jan. 17.—The total fire loss for the United States during the month of the year before, according to figures made public by insurance interests, was $23,000,000, as against $26,694,250 as compared with $25,452,800 in 1913.

WORKED CREW TOO LONG.

Indianapolis, Jan. 17.—Suit has been filed in this city against the Pennsylvania Lines of Indiana railroad, because of the claim that the road worked a train crew 20 consecutive hours, in violation of law.

BOOKBINDERS ON STRIKE.

Lafayette, Ind., Jan. 12.—Because they were refused a wage increase to the basis established by the Chicago scale, the bookbinders of this city have gone on strike. Their present rate is $15.

DOES UNIONISM PAY!

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Jan. 17.—Organizer Stewart, in a resume of industrial conditions in this city, states that 1913 has been the most prosperous the local trade union movement has ever experienced. Established unions, both in building trades and label crafts, have had an average increase of 22 per cent in membership. All have received increases in wages averaging 11 per cent. Street car men have a 100 per cent membership of 127 members and secured increases of 14 per cent. Not a single strike has occurred in any craft. The Cedar Rapids Adjustment plan, recognizing union shop conditions, and depending upon mediation and conciliation, has made possible the construction of $6,000,000 worth of work without the loss of a minute's time. The local Federation of Labor, the Building Trades Council, and the Employers' association, through committees, are now engaged in improving the old agreement, preliminary to its renewal.

TO VOTE ON NINE QUESTIONS.

Sacramento, Cal., Jan. 17.—With the first of the year the state closed its filing petitions under the new initiative and referendum law. Nine questions of popular interest to California will be submitted to the electorate next November. The initiative measures provide for a simplification of land titles, restriction of the electorate at bond elections to taxpayers, a state-wide prohibition, abolition of the poll tax, and a universal eight-hour day. The referendum will be invoked against the eight-hour act, passed by the last legislature. The red light abatement law, the "blue sky" law, an act regulating the practice of optometrists, and an act prohibiting the sale of fish and game. The proposal to restrict election of all bonds to taxpayers is receiving attention, as workers are already pointing to dangers contained in a measure that provides for property qualifications.

TOO MUCH LEGAL LORE.

Denver, Jan. 12.—City Attorney Sievens says the purpose of the initiative and referendum is largely defeated because the average citizen does not know what is contained in petitions he signs." Initiative petitions are long and so filled with legal lore that many people do not pause to read or study them, and, consequently, do not understand them. To remedy this, the city attorney favors placing a brief statement of the proposal at the head of each petition. He would also have created a commission of lawyers of other words to amend men to dig the "meat" out of the proposals, greatly condense them, and state the changes favored in as few words as possible.

WILL BUILD IT HIMSELF.

Cincinnati, Jan. 17.—Uncle Sam fooled several contractors in this section who bid on the job, when he decided to clean and locks for the Ohio River near Vevay, Ind. Now that the contract is let and today the improvement until they had finished contracts they now have. The official in charge of this district notified the war department at Washington of conditions, and he was authorized to employ J. F. Jones engineer, and decided to do it himself. The lock and dam is now being constructed.

A PHENOMENAL GROWTH.

Springfield, Ill., Jan. 17.—During the past three months the Illinois State Federation of Labor has increased its membership a hundred thousand. Central bodies and local unions are enrolling as a result of a vigorous campaign, and 40,000 affiliations have been recorded for the last quarter. This includes 4,000 garment workers, 1,000 flat janitors, 700 miners, 300 civil engineers, and 200 cigarmakers.

URGES MEDIATION.

Hazelton, Penn., Jan. 17.—The Central Labor Union has issued a call to the citizens to support their request that the Lehigh Traction company mediate the controversy that compels 1,000 trainmen and conductors, who are asking for higher wages. The State Board of Mediation is urged to investigate. The strike is so effective that other means of conveyance are now patronized.

BOATMEN'S DEMAND MET.

Elizabeth, N. J., Jan. 17.—Two firms in this city have granted the demands of striking bargemen, who ask for an increase in wages from $25 to $30 a month, which most of them have been getting, to $60 a month. The strike has been on since the first of the year, and includes the coast line in the vicinity of the New York harbor.

MUST GIVE STRIKE NOTICES.

Boston, Jan. 17.—The Supreme Court has upheld the statute compelling employers advertising for help during labor disputes to include in the advertisement that a strike exists. A shoe manufacturer of Lynn violated the law and was convicted in a lower court. On an appeal to the State Supreme Court the decision was sustained and the act declared constitutional.

UNION CONTRACT STANDS.

Salem, Oreg., Jan. 17.—The Employers' Association, of this State, has lost its fight in the courts. Judge Harris, who signed a contract with the printing crafts providing that the label should be placed on all their work, has let stand his ruling in the matter up with the State printing board, which has refused to annul the contract.

"RATTLERS" ARE A HAZARD.

Olympia, Wash., Jan. 17.—The State Industrial Insurance Commission has ruled that a rattlesnake is a "dangerous tool," and who was bitten by a rattlesnake is entitled to compensation from the State Industrial Insurance Fund. The claim for character done to a country infested with "rattlers" is declared to be an industrial hazard.

TO CARE FOR THEIR AGED.

Boston, Jan. 17.—The Housing and Portable Engineers' union of this city has decided to establish a home for its aged and suitable home, one of their old members who is no longer able to work and who has no relatives.

MACHINISTS SECURE INCREASE.

Tacoma, Jan. 17.—Machinists and helpers on the Chicago, Milwaukee and Puget Sound railroad, who have been working on railway have secured new agreements that include wage increases.

WANT A SHORT SATURDAY.

San Francisco, Jan. 17.—The Retail Shoe Clerks' union is preparing to present a new agreement to their employers that will have provisions in their agreement for a Saturday half-holiday during the summer months, and a Saturday evening during the remainder of the year.

MINIMUM WAGE LAW UPHELD

State Supreme Court Says Principle Is Correct.

JUDGES CHANGE FORMER VIEW

State and Cities Have the Right to Prescribe Public Works Conditions.

Olympia, Wash., Jan. 17.—The state supreme court has upheld the principle waged by organized labor on behalf of the Spokane $2 minimum wage scale, street improvement and the eight-hour day that the act providing for this rate is legal, and that cities have the right to establish a minimum rate for municipal work, whether done by the city direct or by contract. By a majority of five to four the judges are of the opinion, while three dissented, the court refers to a decision of the United States supreme court, in sustaining Kansas law fixing an eight-hour day and providing that the going rate should be paid. The majority opinion, which was handed down by Judge Crow, says: "It belongs to the state as a guardian and trustee of its people to prescribe the conditions upon which it will permit public work to be done on behalf or on behalf of its municipalities. It is believed this principle will be applied to the efforts of the State Industrial Board in establishing a fixed minimum wage for women. The court rejects former views which held that the city, in the legal sense of the word, owners who pay for improvement work and is therefore bound to get the work done at the lowest possible cost. The court calls attention to the absence of any provision in the act which prohibits that work, if done by contract, shall be let to the lowest bidder. In answer to the claim that the act is unreasonable the court says: "The unit as applied to the problem of living is the family, and $2.20 or even $2.50 a day can not be complacently pronounced as an unreasonable sum for supporting such a unit."

CITY ORDINANCE ILLEGAL.

New York, Jan. 17.—The express companies of this city have won the point that the attempt to license the drivers of their wagons, which the city, N. J., is an interference with interstate commerce. The case grew out of the strike of 1913, when the late Mayor Gaynor, exhausting efforts to settle the trouble, resorted to an old city ordinance which required that all express wagons should be licensed, and that all drivers should obtain permits. The express companies resisted the enforcement of the ordinance on the ground that 75 per cent of their business was interstate and beyond municipal regulation. Now that the ordinance has been declared illegal it will be enforced the order, under direction of Mayor Gaynor. The companies contend that the ordinance is unconstitutional, where it was held invalid as applied to interstate business.

TWO IMPACT DECISIONS.

Indianapolis, Jan. 17.—The State Supreme Court has held that the city authorities was operating a lever by means of which the opening and closing of the canal lock gear and his hand slipped from the lever into unguarded cogs, that the employer was injured and that the city was liable. The court declared that if the cogs had been guarded the accident would not have occurred. The claim that the injury to the man was not a primary cause for the accident.

Baton Rouge, La., Jan. 17.—The Supreme court of this state has upheld the legislature which provides that checkweighmen shall be appointed to check the number of tons of coal mined by miners, who are paid by the ton. The law is not a violation of the United States Constitution.

NO CUT IN NAVY YARD WAGES.

Washington, Jan. 17.—Secretary of the Navy Daniels announces that the wages of people in this city who are employed during the present fiscal year. The regular naval wage board at the local navy yard has decided that the wages of employes was 10 per cent higher than wages paid for work of the same character in the private establishments in this locality, and favored a general reduction. The secretary ruled that this was impossible, and decided that the present wages because of the present high cost of living without reduction. The navy department reports that the average pay of mechanics in the yard here is $3.62 a day.

UNIONISTS ASK TO BE HEARD.

Wheeling, W. Va., Jan. 17.—Conscious of the fact that there is no local legislation of people in this city who oppose trades unionism through a misunderstanding of its aims and objects, the Ohio Valley Trades council has decided to address a letter to the various religious, civic, professional, and business organizations asking them to call a membership meeting of their respective organizations at which representatives of labor will assembly explain the aims and objects of organized labor. This action is part of the campaign of education that labor is now being arranged for.

UPHOLSTERERS ON STRIKE.

Minneapolis, Minn., Jan. 17.—High prices charged for furniture by employers in this city according to given by employers in the city according to the Upholsterers' union. The workers demand that the Employers' association and are enthusiastic in their determination to resist the establishment of nonunion conditions in the furniture trade. The central body has appointed a committee to assist the strikers and is appealing to other workers in the struck furniture shops.

FAVORS PRINTERS' LAW.

Philadelphia, Jan. 17.—The state legislature will shortly be asked to pass an act of investigations, the Central Labor Union of this city, acting with a committee of the Typographical union. The act that has for its purpose the abolishment of all sweatshop conditions in the printing trades and charitable institutions.

BREWERY WORKERS WIN.

Syracuse, Jan. 17.—The Brewery Workers' union of this city has won a victory in the form of a new agreement with the Pabst brewery, which provides for the abolishment of the 12-hour day, and the establishment of the eight-hour day. The agreement is effective for one year.

WOULD ABOLISH AGENCIES.

Springfield, Mass., Jan. 17.—As a result of investigations, the Central Labor Union of this city, acting with a committee of the Typographical union, has decided that has for its purpose the abolishment of all sweatshop conditions in the printing trades and charitable institutions.